



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
**The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of**  
**Homeland Security and Emergency Management**  
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N.H. National Guard troops assist with the evacuation of children in Nottingham as flood waters rose around their school. Members of the 157<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing used a five-ton truck to transport 18 children to safety. Governor Lynch activated 400 Army and Air Guard troops during the flood, who handled traffic control, evacuations, sandbagging and other duties.

N.H. National Guard photo.

**THIRD FLOOD IN 22 MONTHS STRIKES NEW HAMPSHIRE** – For many in the Granite State the forecasts of a nor'easter the weekend of April 14<sup>th</sup> must have seemed like déjà vu all over again. For the third time in less than two years a heavy rain drenched the state, causing flooding in all areas except the far north. The rainstorm was complicated by a coastal storm surge that caused coastal erosion and flooding and high winds that knocked out power to 75,000 utility customers. Damage was widespread. In seven counties, 24 homes were destroyed, with another 200 heavily damaged. Most tragically, some of the flooded homes were the same ones damaged in the Mother's Day flood of 2006. More than 400 state and local roads were washed out or blocked, including Route 101 in Wilton, where a landslide blocked travel in both directions. Verizon's Raymond central office was flooded, knocking out phone service to all customers on the 895 exchange in Raymond, Fremont, Nottingham and Epping and limiting service to local calling in surrounding communities. Four small dams failed and a fifth was intentionally breached to eliminate a hazardous situation. In the Upper Valley, hundreds of acres of trees were knocked down by the wind.

Governor John Lynch declared a state of emergency and requested federal disaster aid. State and voluntary organizations are gearing up for the recovery effort.

**MAJOR EXERCISE TESTS PUBLIC HEALTH CAPABILITIES** – A week-long exercise beginning Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, tested New Hampshire’s ability to combat a major public health emergency and utilize the Strategic National Stockpile. The exercise culminated in the activation of Points-of Dispensing, or PODs, to provide medication to large numbers of people in the simulated emergency. It began with two days of injects to state public health officials, who correctly determined that the cause of the unusual illness in the scenario was an anthrax release at a high school hockey playoff game held at the Verizon Center. A senior leaders’ tabletop exercise in the state EOC evaluated the situation and concluded that portion of the exercise by requesting the SNS. The SNS supplies, with medication and other resources, were received at one of the state’s Receipt, Stage and Store warehouses, where it was broken down into three parts and transported to PODs in Concord, Rochester and Berlin.

**HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTED TO BE ACTIVE** – The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1 and forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting an active one. The Colorado State hurricane team predicts 17 named storms, compared with a long term average of 9.6. Of those storms, nine are expected to become hurricanes, compared to an average of 5.9, and five are predicted to be severe hurricanes of Category 3 or more, compared to an average of 2.3. The researchers say there is a 74 percent probability of a major hurricane making landfall along the U.S. coastline during the season, compared with an average of 52 percent.

While the numbers indicate an active hurricane season, they do not predict where a hurricane might strike. The science to do that does not exist. So, will this be the year of the next Great New England Hurricane? The answer is the same as every year: maybe.

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFERS SPOTTER TRAINING** – The National Weather Service offices in Gray, Maine, and Taunton, Mass., are offering training for weather spotters to help the professionals gather data and watch for extreme conditions. Weather spotter training will be provided in Laconia, North Conway, Swanzey and Hudson, N.H., and Kittery, Maine in the next two months. The training sessions are two and a half hours long. No pre-registration is necessary. Spotters will help Weather Service meteorologists gauge the severity of storms, measure snow and rainfall amounts and monitor how quickly streams and creeks rise during a storm. All of that is essential information for emergency managers.

Training will be offered at the following locations:

- May 1<sup>st</sup>, **Laconia** – Taylor Community Center, 435 Union Avenue, 6:30 p.m.
- May 14<sup>th</sup>, **Swanzey** – Monadnock Regional High School, 7 p.m.
- May 15<sup>th</sup>, **Hudson** – N.H. Community Center, 12 Lions Avenue, 6:30 p.m.
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, **Kittery, Maine** – Shopleigh School, 43 Stevens Road, 6:30 p.m.
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, **North Conway** – Mount Washington Discovery Center, 2779 Main Street, 10 a.m.

For more information, contact [Mike.Cempa@noaa.gov](mailto:Mike.Cempa@noaa.gov).

**GET TO KNOW YOUR PSNH COMMUNITY RELATIONS REP** – The middle of a disaster is the worst time for emergency managers to try to reach Public Service Company of New Hampshire. The utility's phone banks are swamped with calls from customers reporting outages and wanting to know when the power will be back on. But there is a way for emergency managers to get through to the utility to report power outages at critical facilities or seek priority attention when needed. That is to call the regional community relations representative. He or she can get word about priority situations to utility repair crews. If you don't know who your regional community service representative is call Martin Murray at 634-2228.

PSNH serves 70 percent of New Hampshire electric customers with three regional divisions in the state: Seacoast and Northern (Portsmouth), Southern (Keene) and Western Central (Hooksett).

**SCHOOL VIOLENCE CONFERENCE HEARS COLUMBINE SURVIVOR** – A conference on school violence attracted more than 400 school and law enforcement officials in Concord on April 10<sup>th</sup> to a day-long conference on school violence. The keynote speaker was a survivor of the 1999 Columbine shootings in Colorado. Craig Scott was a student at Columbine High School. His sister Rachel was the first of 13 victims to be killed in the shooting rampage by two fellow students. Scott encouraged participants to encourage understanding and prevent bullying among students to prevent future school violence.

**FIRE ACADEMY OFFERS WMD COURSE** – The N.H. Fire Academy is offering a three-day course on Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat and Risk Assessment for local first responders beginning June 20<sup>th</sup>. The course is aimed at training key response personnel to prevent, mitigate, manage or resolve a weapons of mass destruction or terrorist incident. The course is intended for emergency management, law enforcement, fire service, public works and other local government and private sector personnel. The cost is \$30 per person (to cover the cost of lunch each day). The deadline for registration is May 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, call Captain Bob Pragoff at the Fire Academy, at 271-2661, ext. 106.